

**Notic of Allowability****Application No.**

09/298,160

**Examiner**

Allan W. Olsen

**Applicant(s)**

CUSTER ET AL.

**Art Unit**

1763

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after final amendment filed July 2, 2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,39-42 and 44-48.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.              | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                  |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

**DETAILED ACTION**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with D. Brent Kenady on July 12, 2002.

The application has been amended as follows:  
in claim 1, delete "the regassification increasing a total dissolved gas concentration in the liquid to greater than or equal to 200 ppb,".

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 3-5, 39-42 and 44-48 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are directed to a method of preparing a liquid. Claim 1 recites as a future intended use "for a semiconductor polishing process". The claims are allowed without regard to the statement pertaining to the future intended use of the liquid prepared by the method of claim 1. Claim 1 requires that a liquid is first degassified and then the degassed liquid is regassified such that the total dissolved gas concentration is about 450 - 550 ppb.

The closest prior art of record is Ohmi (5,858,106) and Mitsumori (5,783,790). Ohmi teaches degassing to a dissolved gas concentration of as low 100 ppb, however, Ohmi teaches introducing ozone to a concentration of 2-5 ppm. Mitsumori teaches

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deoxygenating a liquid and then introducing from 500 ppb to 15 ppm ozone. Mitsumori teaches deoxygenating rather than the degassing of a liquid. Mitsumori's ozone concentration is within the claimed range for the total dissolved gas concentration of the regassed liquid. However, Mitsumori is silent with regard to components such as dissolved nitrogen or CO<sub>2</sub>, therefore Mitsumori does not teach ~~that~~ a total dissolved gas concentration.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

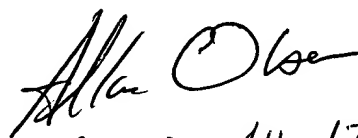
### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Olsen whose telephone number is 703-306-9075. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Mills, can be reached on 703-308-1633.

The examiner's Right-Fax (direct to desktop) phone number is 703-872-9684. Alternatively, the general fax numbers for TC1700 are 703-872-9310 (non-after finals) and 703-872-9311(after-final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Allan Olsen, Ph.D.  
July 12, 2002

  
Examiner A.U. 1763